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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 03118 280722Z

43
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 101158
R 271655Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5815
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T RABAT 3118

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP
SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS

REF: A) RABAT 2698 B) RABAT 3092

1. I CALLED ON FRENCH AMBASSADOR JUNE 27 TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON SAHARA. HE INDICATED THERE HAD STILL BEEN NO REACTION FROM PARIS RE KING'S JUNE 5 REQUEST FOR FRENCH AND U.S. DIPLOMATIC HELP. (REF A) HE ALSO INDICATED HE HAD AS YET RECEIVED NO NEWS CONCERNING SPANISH FONMIN CORTINA'S CURRENT VISIT TO PARIS, DURING WHICH SAHARA NO DOUBT A TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION.

2. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID HE DETECTED A NEW NUANCE IN MOROCCO'S POSITION ON FOUR-POWER SAHARA TALKS. ACTING FONMIN CHERKAOUI HAD TOLD HIM MOROCCANS HAD LET IT BE KNOWN THEY WERE NOT GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN FOUR-POWER MEETINGS, BUT CHERKAOUI AT SAME TIME HAD EMPHASIZED THAT THIS POSITION HAD NOT BEEN CONVEYED OFFICIALLY. FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S INTERPRETATION
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WAS THAT WHILE THIS WAS A RETREAT FROM POSITION KING HAD OUTLINED

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TO US JUNE 5 (REF A), GOM HAD STILL NOT CLOSED THE DOOR ON FOUR-POWER TALKS COMPLETELY. WITHOUT MENTIONING MY TALK WITH THE KING PREVIOUS DAY (REF B), I EXPRESSED OPINION THAT KING WAS VEXED BY SPANIARDS AND HAD APPARENTLY FINESSED HIS POSITION TO AVOID GETTING INVOLVED IN A NEGOTIATING ARRANGEMENT WHICH MIGHT IMPLY THAT ALGERIA HAD A STATUS RESEMBLING MOROCCO'S IN DETERMINING SAHARA OUTCOME. FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIEWED THIS AS BEING IN HARMONY WITH WHAT CHERKAOUI HAD TOLD HIM AND AS SUPPORTING HIS CONCLUSION THAT POSSIBILITY OF FOUR-POWER TALKS REMAINED CONDITIONALLY OPEN. HE WENT ON TO VOICE OPINION THAT EFFORTS MIGHT USEFULLY BE MADE WITH SPAIN TO URGE THAT A FORMULA BE DEVISED TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA ON ONE HAND AND ALGERIA ON THE OTHER IN ORDER TO IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR FOUR-POWER TALKS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARBITRATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT03118
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750224-0994
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975069/aaaaahsp.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 RABAT 2698, 75 RABAT 3092
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH SAHARA: FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, MO, SS, SP, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006